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**(12) Patent Application:****(11) CA 2231978**

(54) BIGSOFT BROTHER - SOFTWARE METHOD FOR TRACKING AND IDENTIFYING ILLEGAL SOFTWARE PIRACY, INSTALLATION, COPYING AND THEFT OF SOFTWARE

(54) BIGSOFT BROTHER - LOGICIEL POUR DEPISTER ET IDENTIFIER LE PIRATAGE ILLEGAL DE LOGICIEL, D'INSTALLATION DE LOGICIEL, DE COPIES DE LOGICIEL ET DE VOL DE LOGICIEL

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(72) Inventors (Country): **BRISSON, Andre J. (Canada)**

(73) Owners (Country): **BRISSON, Andre J. (Canada)**

(71) Applicants (Country): **BRISSON, Andre J. (Canada)**

(74) Agent:

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(30) Application priority data: **None**

Availability of licence: **N/A**

Language of filing: **English**

**ABSTRACT:**

Source code and method to be protected, a software application to be used both during installation of software programs and the running of these software applications, interfacing with the hardware of the recipient computer, in particular to scan and retrieve the hard disk drive part number, in order to track illegal use, illegal installation or illegal copying of software (as well as registering legal use of software). Code is compiled into the install executable of software which will copy two registration files onto recipient computer: one registration file in the active directory of the

software being installed, and one registration file in an arbitrary directory of the recipient computer. In addition, an email utility will be installed onto the recipient computer. During installation, the Hard Disk Drive identification number will be stripped from the recipient computer. During installation the user return email address (if available) will be stripped from the recipient computer. Both the Hard Disk Drive identification number and the user return email address will be copied into the registration files placed on recipient computer. In addition, an email will be created including the product registration numbers, the Hard Disk Drive identification number of the recipient computer, and the email return address of the computer user, and this email will be addressed back to our server database maintaining the registration and user information. On the very next connect to the Internet or use of email, the email will be sent to our server maintaining the registration and user database. Every single installation of software utilizing our method will create and send a "registration" email. A similar piece of code, compiled as a library (like a dll) will be included with the programming of the software utilizing our method. When the program is activated, this code (dll or other form of library) will search for the two registration files copied onto the recipient computer during installation. If it finds both registration files, and on comparison all information (i.e. the registration numbers, the hard disk drive numbers, and the user return email address) is identical then there is no further action. If it finds only one registration file, or if the information contained in the two registration files copied onto the recipient computer are not identical, then the hard drive identification number stripped from the recipient computer hardware, the user return email address, and the information from the single registration file, or the two conflicting registration files, will be copied into an email addressed to our server database maintaining registration and use information and placed in an "out basket". Upon the next connection to the Internet, or use of email, this email will be sent to our server registration maintainance database. The database at our server site, managing the registration and use information, will use a querying method based on logic. The first email received is a valid registration. Any subsequent "registration or use" emails which have either incomplete data (i.e. only one registration file) or nonidentical information (ie different hard disk drive identification number and different user return email address) along with the product registration number is the identity of a computer with a pirated copy of software installed.

**CLAIMS:** Show all claims

\*\*\* Note: Data on abstracts and claims is shown in the official language in which it was submitted.

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BIGSOFT BROTHER - SOFTWARE METHOD FOR TRACKING AND IDENTIFYING ILLEGAL SOFTWARE PIRACY, INSTALLATION, COPYING AND THEFT OF SOFTWARE

BIGSOFT BROTHER - LOGICIEL POUR DEPISTER ET IDENTIFIER LE PIRATAGE ILLEGAL DE LOGICIEL, D'INSTALLATION DE LOGICIEL, DE COPIES DE LOGICIEL ET DE VOL DE LOGICIEL

**CLAIMS:**

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:  
I claim:

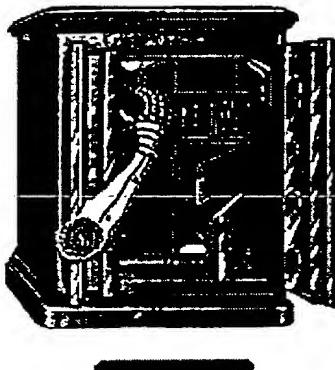
1. A method of installing software and a method of using software which allows the tracking and identification of illegal installation, illegal use, or illegal copying of software onto unauthorized and unlicensed computers, comprising the method steps of:
  - a) installing two registration files onto recipient computer, one in the active software directory and one in an arbitrary directory.
  - b) stripping or identification of the recipient hard disk drive part number from computer hardware.
  - c) stripping or identification of the recipient computer user's return email address.
  - d) installation of a utility creating email addressed to our server registration and use management database.
  - e) creating an email on every single installation of software, addressed to our server, containing the registration and computer identification data mentioned in a, b, and c.
  - f) capacity to send the email created in step a on the next connection made to the Internet or activation of email.
  - g) copying a similar piece of code in a library (like dll) in the directory containing the software installed.
  - h) upon activation of program, looking on recipient computer for two registration files with identical information. (If there is only one registration file, or two registration files with conflicting data, then repeat steps b, c, e, and f.)

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## (2)(19)(CA) Demande-Application

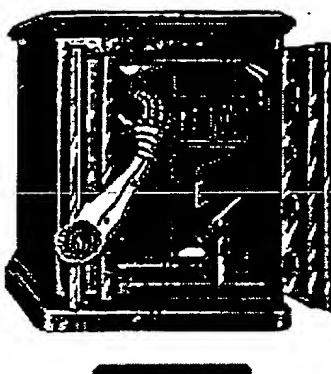
(2)(A) 2,231,978  
(22) 1998/05/20  
(43) 1999/11/20

(2) BRUSSON, Andre J., CA  
 (11) BRUSSON, Andre J., CA  
 (51) Int.Cl. G06F 9/14, G06F 17/60, G06F 13/38, G06F 12/14  
 (54) BIGsoft BROTHIER - LOGICIEL POUR DEPISTER ET  
**IDENTIFIER LE PIRATAGE ILLÉGAL DE LOGICIEL,  
 D'INSTALLATION DE LOGICIEL, DE COPIES DE LOGICIEL,  
 ET DE VOL DE LOGICIEL**  
 (54) BIGsoft BROTHIER - SOFTWARE METHOD FOR TRACKING  
**AND IDENTIFYING ILLLEGAL SOFTWARE PIRACY,  
 INSTALLATION, COPYING AND THEFT OF SOFTWARE**

(57) Source code and method to be protected, a software application to be used both during installation of software programs and the running of these software applications, interfacing with the hardware of the recipient computer, in particular to scan and retrieve the hard disk drive part number, in order to track illegal use, illegal installation or illegal copying of software (as well as registering legal use of software). Code is compiled into the install executable of software which will copy two registration files onto recipient computer, one registration file in the active directory of the software being installed, and one registration file in an arbitrary directory of the recipient computer. In addition, an email utility will be installed onto the recipient computer. During installation, the Hard Disk Drive identification number will be stripped from the recipient computer. During installation the user return email address (if available) will be stripped from the recipient computer. Both the Hard Disk Drive identification number and the user return email address will be copied into the registration files placed on recipient computer. In addition, an email will be created including the product registration numbers, the Hard Disk Drive identification number of the recipient computer, and the email return address of the computer user, and this email will be addressed back to our server database maintaining the registration and user information. On the very next connect to the Internet or use of email, the email will be sent to our server maintaining the registration and user database. Every single installation of software utilizing our method will create and send a "registration" email. A similar piece of code, compiled as a library (like a DLL) will be included with the programming of the software utilizing our method. When the program is activated, this code (DLL or other form of library) will search for the two registration files copied onto the recipient computer during installation. If it finds both registration files, and no comparison all information (i.e. the registration numbers, the hard disk drive numbers, and the user return email address) is identical then there is no further action. If it finds only one registration file, or if the information contained in the two registration files copied onto the recipient computer are not identical, then the hard drive identification number stripped from the recipient computer hardware, the user return email address, and the information from the single registration file, or the two existing registration files, will be copied into an email addressed to our server database maintaining registration and user information and placed in an "out basket". Upon the next connection to the Internet, or use of email, this email will be sent to our server registration maintenance database. The database at our server site, containing the registration and user information, will use a querying method based on logic. The first email received is a valid registration. Any subsequent "registration or use" emails which have either incomplete data (i.e. only one registration file) or nonidentical information (i.e. different hard disk drive identification number and different user return email address) along with the product registration number is the identity of a computer with a pirated copy of software installed.



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CA 02231978 1998-05-20

### SOFTWARE METHOD FOR TRACKING AND IDENTIFYING ILLEGAL SOFTWARE PIRACY, INSTALLATION, COPYING AND THEFT OF SOFTWARE.

#### Abstract

Source code and method to be protected, a software application to be used both during installation of software programs and the running of these software applications, interfacing with the hardware of the recipient computer, in particular to scan and retrieve the hard disk drive part number, in order to track illegal use, illegal installation or illegal copying of software (as well as registering legal use of software). Code is compiled into the install executable of software which will copy two registration files onto recipient computer: one registration file in the active directory of the software being installed, and one registration file in an arbitrary directory of the recipient computer. In addition, an email utility will be installed onto the recipient computer. During installation, the Hard Disk Drive identification number will be stripped from the recipient computer. During installation the user return email address (if available) will be stripped from the recipient computer. Both the Hard Disk Drive identification number and the user return email address will be copied into the registration files placed on recipient computer. In addition, an email will be created including the product registration numbers, the Hard Disk Drive identification number of the recipient computer, and the email return address of the computer user, and this email will be addressed back to our server database maintaining the registration and user information. On the very next connect to the internet or use of email, the email will be sent to our server maintaining the registration and user database. Every single installation of software utilizing our method will create and send a "registration" email.

A similar piece of code, compiled as a library (like a dll) will be included with the programming of the software utilizing our method. When the program is activated, this code (dll) or other form of library) will search for the two registration files copied onto the recipient computer during installation. If it finds both registration files, and on comparison all information (i.e. the registration numbers, the hard disk drive numbers, and the user return email address) is identical then there is no further action. If it finds only one registration file, or if the information contained in the two registration files copied onto the recipient computer are not identical, then the hard drive identification number stripped from the recipient computer hardware, the user return email address, and the information from the single registration file, or the two conflicting registration files, will be copied into an email addressed to our server database maintaining registration and use information and placed in an "out basket". Upon the next connection to the internet, or use of email, this email will be sent to our server registration maintenance database.

The database at our server site, managing the registration and use information, will use a querying method based on logic. The first email received is a valid registration. Any subsequent "registration or use" emails which have either incomplete data (i.e. only one registration file) or nonidentical information (ie different hard disk drive identification number and different user return email address) along with the product registration number is the identity of a computer with a pirated copy of software installed.



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## Specification

This invention relates to a software method for identifying and tracking the illegal installation, the illegal use, and the illegal copying of computer software.

In addressing piracy, previous methods have attempted through encryption, hardware dongles and other methods to prevent the duplication or copying of computer software from one form of electromagnetic medium to another. These methods have no capacity for identifying who the pirate is or on what computers illegally obtained software resides. This method is distinguished in that it not only discourages software piracy, but provides a mechanism for identifying and tracking pirates to either recover lost revenues or to prosecute the illegal activities. Since it is a small piece of code, it can be included with the installation code or the activation code of any software.

I have found that utilizing the connectivity that internet and email applications provide that it is possible to transmit information via email. The method retrieves the hard disk drive registration number from the recipient computer hardware and the computer user email return address and sends an email to a database maintaining registration and use data. This method allows the exact identification of where software resides and who has installed it.

The best way to utilize this method is to have the code process described in the abstract included in both the installation executable used to install software from disks or cd-roms (or other electronic methods) onto computers, as well as including a similar library (i.e. DLL) which executes upon use of the software program installed. This software code or application should be used in the distribution of all software.



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